



Newsweek



*Each of us can be compared to a spoke in a wheel.
Without each spoke functioning well, our wheel won't turn.*

<http://www.dkgalphaalpha.org>

February 2016

Effects of legislation on students, preK-adult



In January 2016, the annual legislative brunch co-sponsored by the Alpha Alpha and Beta Eta chapters focused on recent legislation that affects students from preK through college-level teacher candidates. After presenting current issues, presenters suggested steps chapter members could take to influence decisions at the New York State Legislature and Board of Regents levels.

Sherry Johnson, Executive Director of the Monroe County School Boards Association, provided an overview of changes since December 10 at both the federal and state levels that require changes at the local level. A major change was passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act which replaces No Child Left Behind as the current version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This new law returns much decision making to the state and local levels. Then New York State task forces recommended changes to the Common Core and teacher evaluation systems. However, Sherry noted, while the Regents have made some revisions that return some flexibility to local school districts, other needed revisions can only occur by undoing or reversing state law.



Dr. Christine Murray, Education Professor Emerita at The College at Brockport, described how the 2015 state teacher certification laws have negatively affected teacher candidates. Dr. Murray is actively involved with the United University Professions (UUP), the faculty union at the State University of New York's 29 campuses. She noted that current state regulations allow testing companies to make their profits by charging teacher candidates to take the required tests. She also noted that districts are faced with a lack of teachers in several specialty areas.

Both presenters suggested that members could contact members of the legislature and Board of Regents to influence their decision making regarding curriculum, testing, teacher evaluation, testing charges for teacher candidates, and programs to attract and keep needed teachers.



In an upcoming special issue of *Newsweek*, these suggestions will be described in greater detail. In the meanwhile, for further information and updates on UUP's legislative initiatives visit the UUP Teacher Education Task Force website:

<http://uupinfo.org/committees/teached/taskforce.php>.

TOP: Presenter Sherry Johnson with Legislative Committee Co-Chair Dr. Leah Barrett.
MIDDLE: Dr. Kathleen DaBoll-Lavoie, Dean, Nazareth College School of Education, with presenter Dr. Christine Murray.
BOTTOM: Alpha Alpha President Pam Eberhardt with Pi State President Deborah Bedard at the Legislative Brunch.

More on page 4.



Pam Eberhardt

From our President

Dear Alpha Alpha Members,

So many of you attended the Legislative Brunch at St. John Fisher College – great to see you! Dr. Christine Murray and Sherry Johnson gave us a brief update on the latest information about how NYS initiatives affect students.

It was interesting to hear that the State Education Department is dropping the testing company (Pearson) that produces the standardized tests used in our state, and has initiated some changes in the teacher evaluation process. More needs to happen and we can contact our Legislators to voice our opinions and support needed changes. Many Chapters were represented at our brunch and I met several interesting people from across our state including Pi State President Deborah Bedard.

It was terrific to have so many educators join us.

Thank you to Leah Barrett and committee for all their hard work in preparing for this meeting and a special thank you to Elaine Leshnowar for sharing her poem in remembrance of Fran Moroney Whited. We will, indeed, remember Fran.

Please look over the Standing Rules changes and be prepared to vote at our March meeting. Bridget Bishop and committee have spent hours bringing our chapter Standing Rules into alignment with the changes in the Pi State By-Laws. Thank you to all who have spent so much time and effort on this.

The Quinn meeting is at the Ridgemont Country Club on March 23, 2016 at 5:30 pm. Our Book Raffle to raise money for the Awards Funds is featuring Art and Poetry books, but all gently used books are welcome. Seems we are all avid readers! See you there!

Pam

Remembering Dr. Frances Moroney Whited

I am overwhelmed with grief at the loss of my dear mentor and friend, Dr. Whited. However, I am also filled with gratitude that such an outstanding person has been a part of my heart and a part of my family for over a decade. She has inspired me since the day we met, and in taking what I have learned from her, my life will never be the same.

I first met Dr. Whited in 2004 when I was just beginning my freshman year at The College at Brockport. I was so honored to win the Katharine M. Reichel Award, amazed by the gift of assistance in my student loans. However, little did I know at the time that the true treasure I received in winning that scholarship were the people I was about to love and admire.

Dr. Whited was one of those people, quickly taking me under her wing, calling me to make sure my studies are going smoothly, inviting me to events around campus, picking me up at my dorm to take me out to many lunches, sending me notes with articles she that made her think of me and my goals, assisting me in my research for more scholarships to apply for, and so much more than I can even recall. She soon became a new addition to my family as she would invite my parents and brother to events around the community and stop by my house to deliver thoughtful gifts or notes. I so often would tell her that she was the closest person to a grandmother I had ever known. She used to laugh and say, "Well, let's make it official then. From this moment on, I will always be your grandmother," with her melodic giggle. She sure made me feel like it was official. :)

She was so supportive of my decision to change my career path to being a teacher of the Deaf, and when that path took me to Atlanta, GA, her mentorship, support and grandmother-like love remained constant. Every time I was in town visiting, we would always meet for lunch at The Apple Tree Inn, which was always a highlight of my visit home. Now, it makes my heart ache, and amazes me at the same time, that it would be during this tradition of ours that I would have the privilege of being with her in her last hours on earth. Though I do not feel worthy, I've never had a greater honor than to hold my newfound grandmother's hand, whispering in her ear that I love her and that everything is going to be alright while help was on the way.

Dr. Whited has left an imprint on my heart that will never be forgotten. She will be forever loved and deeply missed.

Christine Walker, 1/6/16
(Christine is our 2004 Reichel Scholar.)



Fran Whited



Christine Walker

Remembering Fran Whited



Founding Alpha Alpha Member Frances Moroney Whited, Ed.D., died on December 31, 2015 at age 93 after devoting her life to educating and mentoring.

Before her retirement, Fran was a professor of reading and literacy education in the Department of Education and Human Development at the College at Brockport for many years. Fran taught in East Irondequoit schools for three years, then at SUNY New Paltz for one year before transferring to the College at Brockport in 1950. She retired from Brockport in 1985.

Fran was a Charter Member of Alpha Alpha Chapter in 1955, and served our chapter as First Vice President in 1955-1957 and as President in 1962-1964. She remained an active member of our chapter's Awards and Scholarships Committee until the end of her life. She also volunteered her time and talent to support reading teachers, the College at Brockport, and other groups.

Fran was a major benefactor of Alpha Alpha Chapter. As part of the chapter's 50th Anniversary commemoration in 2004-2005, Fran led a fund-raising effort to add an additional, third year of support to the chapter's Brockport strand of scholar awards. This award was named in her honor.

Fran leaves behind legions who enjoyed her friendship, who benefitted from her encouragement, and who consider her a role model. She is remembered for nurturing and mentoring countless careers, for taking a personal interest in all her students, for being proud of their accomplishments, for tirelessly nudging them toward success and achievement, and for embracing them for life. Alpha Alpha Members join many others who mourn the passing of this incredible friend who has made a huge impact on so many lives and on education.



ABOVE: At the 2005 Awards Breakfast, Regent Emerita Dr. Ena Farley presented Dr. Frances Moroney Whited with a resolution from the NYS Board of Regents commemorating Fran's contributions to education.

RIGHT: Fran (standing 3rd from left) at November 1955 chapter event. Seated at the left is First Alpha Alpha President Katharine Reichel.



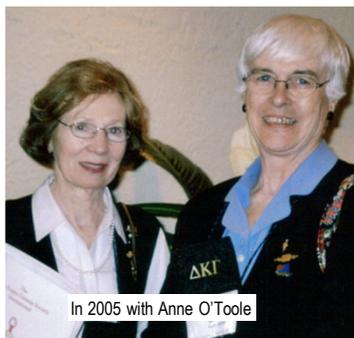
The article above includes remembrances from several Alpha Alpha Members who were directly affected by Fran's caring involvement in their lives.

LEFT: Founding Members Fran Whited and Betty Vary at the Chapter's 10-year celebration in 1965.



ABOVE: Fran and Pam Eberhardt with the wall hanging Pam created using historical pictures to commemorate Fran's service to the chapter.

BELOW: Fran with other chapter founders, Clara Bishop and Betty Vary, in 1993.



In 2005 with Anne O'Toole



With Joan Fenton in 2011



In 2013 with Alpha Alpha Scholar Erin St. James



ABOVE: Fran with tiara and balloons she received at the 2008 chapter picnic to honor her ongoing contributions to the chapter since its inception in 1955.

LEFT: Fran with Jeanette Banker at 2014 College at Brockport homecoming.

At the legislative brunch

RIGHT: Legislative Brunch Committee members Diane Maurer and Dr. Betsy Balzano presented thank-you gifts to presenters Sherry Johnson and Dr. Christine Murray.

BELOW: Lynn Keefer, Pam Eberhardt, Bridget Bishop, and Annie Tran Flesch (standing) with Gretchen Hughes.

BOTTOM: Mary Welch and Rose Swiskey with Sheila Brady-Root who oversees the facilities and catering issues for the Legislative Committee when the legislative brunch is held at St. John Fisher College.



RIGHT: Elaine Leshnowier leading a remembrance of Charter Alpha Alpha Member Dr. Frances Moroney Whited.



TOP: Dr. Jutta Siefert-Dudley and Eileen Wuethrich.
MIDDLE: Jeanette Banker and Mary Anna Russo (Beta Eta Chapter), Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee.
BOTTOM: Diane Maurer and Jeanette Banker.

Update from Bishop Scholar Lynda Clarke

Lynda Clarke, our 2010 Bishop Award recipient, is registered for the winter and spring sessions at the College at Brockport, and has only six classes left until she graduates with a Bachelors Degree in English: Creative Writing. If all goes well, that should be at the end of the Fall 2016 semester. She reports that her work is going well, and that working in the corporate division at MCC has taught her a lot about higher education. She plans to begin the application process for masters programs in higher education as soon as she registers for graduation.

She also notes that she and her boyfriend celebrated their first Christmas in their new home.

She sends her good wishes to everyone, and says, "Thank you for your consistent support. It's helped me more than you know."



REMAINING 2015 – 2016 ALPHA ALPHA MEETINGS

March 23, 2016, 5:30 pm – **Helen E. Quinn Award Dinner**, Ridgemont Country Club

April 16, 2016, 10:00 am – **New Member Orientation**, Home of Elaine Leshnowier

May 4, 2016, 5:30 pm – **Founder's Day/Initiation/Installation/Recognition**, Lakeshore Country Club

June 4, 2016, 9:00 am – **Awards Breakfast**, NY Room, The College at Brockport

Birthdays

Say "Happy Birthday" to these Alpha Alpha members:

February

- 5 Judith Cantleberry
- 7 Lisa Montanaro
- 16 Wanda Ward
- 17 Gretchen Hughes
- 17 Jutta Siefert-Dudley
- 23 Donna Noble
- 26 Nancy Padilla
- 27 Bridget Bishop

March

- 16 Rosemary Callard-Szulgit
- 18 Mary Lou Galasso
- 19 Pam Eberhardt
- 31 Rosalie Gabbert

Nomination form – Outstanding Service Award

Title: The Alpha Alpha Outstanding Service Award
Founder: Membership Recognition Committee
Date Founded: 2012

Purpose: This award was created as an extension of the committee's work to appropriately honor a member's outstanding service to our chapter. It is granted as part of our Founders Day meeting. Ultimately the committee will be comprised of former recipients of the award. Nominations are solicited from the membership.

Eligibility: The award is open to all members of Alpha Alpha who have actively participated on a committee or in a leadership role in service to the chapter.

Criteria: The Alpha Alpha Outstanding Service Award recognizes the personal and professional contributions made by dedicated members of the chapter who have given outstanding service above and beyond what is outlined in the bylaws. Nominees for this award have demonstrated sustained service to the chapter through active participation, advocacy, and leadership.

Nomination Process: The nominator shall prepare a nomination describing the contributions made by the member through firsthand knowledge with optional additional input and support from other members. Nominations will be due by **March 31, 2016** to be considered for selection by the Membership Recognition Committee.

Nomination Form:

Name of Nominee: _____ Year Initiated into Alpha Alpha _____

Committee(s) served: _____

Office(s) held (if any): _____

Name of Nominator: _____ Supporting members: _____
(optional)

Brief Statement- Rationale for your recommendation: (may be continued on back of form or separate sheet)

By March 31, 2016, return this nomination form to Judy Wadsworth at judithw@frontiernet.net or 46 Maybrooke Road, Rochester, NY 14618.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Alpha Alpha Chapter
Minutes of January 23, 2016
Annual Legislative Brunch, St. John Fisher College

ATTENDANCE: B.Balzano, guest Janka Szlagyi, J.Banker, L.Barrett, B.Bishop, S.Brady-Root, R.Callard-Szulgit, P.Eberhardt, A.Tran Flesch, R.Freedman-Baum, S.Genthner & guest Barbara Mitrano, M.A.Geonie, G.Hughes, L.Keefer, E.Leshnower, D.Maurer, C.Murray, J.Siefert-Dudley, R.Swiskey, J.Wadsworth, Sr. E.Weaver, M.Welch, E.Wuethrich, Erin St.James guest of M.L Galasso (absent).

PROGRAM: "How New York State initiatives affect students from pre-K through teacher preparation", Presenters: Dr. Christine Murray and Sherry Johnson. If you are interested in the handouts please email Mary Ann Geonie, M_Genie@yahoo.com with your request. The Winner of the 30/30/30 Raffle was Pam Eberhardt, Congratulations!

BUSINESS MEETING:

CALL TO ORDER: President Pam Eberhardt called the business meeting to order at 12:02 (PM). A Motion to approve the November Minutes was requested by Pam: Moved by Judy Wadsworth, Seconded by: Roz Freedman-Baum, Motion: APPROVED

CORRESPONDENCE: Lyn Babb Schmid (International President) sent a Thank You letter in appreciation of our \$371.00 contribution to the World Fellowship Fund. Linda Kotwas thanks you all for your cards for her speedy recovery.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Annie reported that The 60th Anniversary Fundraiser raised over \$10,000 towards the FLACE Scholarship account. See also the monthly Financial Reports sent out via email.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Quinn Committee: reported by Pam for ML Galasso- by referring to a handout of the proposal and history of the Helen Quinn Award. A motion was made to make the stipend \$200 and to become part of the operating budget. Moved By: Rosemary Callard-Szulgit, Seconded By: Judy Wadsworth. The motion was TABLED, however, Rosemary will donate a \$100 so that \$200 can be awarded this year until a vote takes place. Thank You Rosemary. Pam will email the handout please read before our VOTE.

Membership: Two new member nomination motions were made:

A motion to accept Barbara Mitrano for membership into Alpha Alpha Chapter. Moved By: Sue Genthner, Seconded By: Elaine Leshnower, Motion: APPROVED

A motion to accept Sherry Johnson for membership in into Alpha Alpha Chapter. Moved By: Judy Wadsworth, Seconded By: Rosemary Callard-Szulgit, Motion: APPROVED

DKG members who leave can be re-instated by contacting the Chapter President. The procedure includes a form being signed by the President and payment of the dues.

Standing Rules: Bridget reported on the changes of the Rules. The new corrected version will be emailed to you. PLEASE take the time to read and be ready to VOTE at the March meeting. Any questions & concerns please email Bridget. Kudos & many thanks to Bridget, Roz, Lynne & Elaine for all the hours spent on this well needed project.

Remembrance: Elaine read a wonderful poem in memory of our beloved friend and charter member Frances Moroney Whited. At the next Pi State Convention in Cooperstown, NY, Fran & Betty Vary will be honored and celebrated for their years in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

OLD BUSINESS: Annie held a raffle for all the members that completed their form & paid their dues on time. And the WINNER was: Judy Wadsworth, Congratulations!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Meeting: March 23, 2016 at Ridgemont Country Club at 5:30. Bring your books for the Book Raffle: theme Poetry and Art.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business President Pam adjourned the meeting at 1:30(PM).

Mary Ann Geonie, Secretary, January 23, 2016

Pi State News

Pi State holds several statewide meetings during a biennium. The next meeting is a Spring Executive Board meeting. This board includes all chapter presidents. The upcoming Spring Meeting will be held in Syracuse on April 29-30. Registration is open and information can be found in the *Pi Lights* newsletter.

This fall, the Fall Executive Board meeting will be held at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa in Fairport on October 14-15, 2016. Please consider attending this event and possibly even volunteering to host part of it or work on registration. It will afford an opportunity for all of our chapter members to view the workings of the state organization and to meet women educators from all over New York State.

Lastly, in the spring of 2017 Pi State will hold a convention on April 28-30, 2017 at the Otesaga Resort in Cooperstown, NY.

Pi State Deadlines

March 1: deadline for Scholarship and Awards applications;

May 1: deadline for Educational Foundation Grant applications.

Information for all of the above can be found on the state's website or in the latest editions of *Pi Lights*.

Contributed by

Bridget Bishop

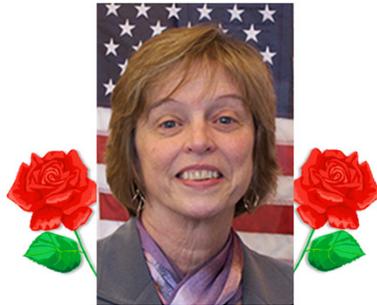


Alpha Alpha Chapter
THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Presents its

HELEN E. QUINN SERVICE TO EDUCATION AWARD

to the



Honorable Patricia Marks

For Improving the Lives of Veterans and Families

Helen E. Quinn



Service to Education
Award

Wednesday,
March 23, 2016

Ridgmont Golf Club
(across from Elm Ridge Plaza
at 3717 West Ridge Road)

5:30 p.m. Gathering, Book Browsing

6:15 p.m. President's Welcome,
Dinner Seating

7:00 p.m. Dessert and Book Benefit
drawings

7:30 p.m. Award Program

A short business meeting will follow.

BOOK SALE

Bring gently used books
(mini-theme: poetry
& the arts,
but all books
accepted)



Menu choices (\$29)

- Petite Filet Mignon with Baked Potato*
- Chicken French over Pasta*
- Broiled Haddock with Baked Potato*
- Mediterranean Pasta (vegetarian)*

**all choices include salad, rolls, vegetable, dessert, coffee/tea*



Reservation form: please consider bringing a guest!

By **March 10**, send menu choice/ check for \$29 per meal **payable to Alpha Alpha Chapter** to:
Mary Lou Galasso, 443 East Moreno Drive, Rochester 14626. After the deadline email
mgalass1@rochester.rr.com or phone 585- 865-3133.

Name _____ Dinner choice: _____

Guest _____ Dinner choice: _____



Newswheel

Alpha Alpha Chapter, Pi State,
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

February 2016

Judy Wadsworth, Editor
judithw@frontiernet.net

2014-2016 Alpha Alpha Officers

President	Pamela Eberhardt	889-2754
1st Vice President	Betsy Balzano	594-0314
2nd Vice President	Lori Burch	520-7512
Secretary	Mary Ann Geonie	637-0045
Treasurer	Annie Tran Flesch	406-3706
Parliamentarian	Gretchen Hughes	865-2822
Past President	Donna Noble	377-0715

**Alpha Alpha questions?
Seek answers at
<http://WWW.dkgalphaalpha.org>**

INSIDE

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REGISTRATION Form

NEXT NEWSWHEEL DEADLINE: March 28

At any time, please forward items you'd like included in the *Newswheel* to the editor at judithw@frontiernet.net.

Sheila Brady-Root a finalist for RMSC STEM Award

The Rochester Museum & Science Center has initiated annual leadership awards in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) fields in our region. The first annual RMSC STEM Awards will be presented at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 in the CityView Ballroom at the Strathallan Hotel.



Awards will be presented in four categories.

The **Organizational Catalyst Award** recognizes an organization or representative of an organization that develops and encourages innovation in STEM or has used STEM to impact our region. Among the five finalists in this category is Alpha Alpha Member **Sheila Brady-Root** (shown at the left), for her efforts at St. John Fisher College.

Other awards include:

Leadership Awards in STEM Education which recognize innovative STEM teaching; the **STEM Communication Award**; and the **President's Civic Award** which is presented by RMSC President Kate Bennett to an individual for contributions to the fields of STEM.

Tickets for the event are \$100.00 each and are available from the RMSC website at <http://www.rmsc.org/science-museum/programs-and-events/item/210-rmsc-stem-awards>.

**Those wishing to contribute to the Alpha Alpha Chapter Dr. Frances Moroney Whited Award in Fran's memory should make out a check to the Brockport Foundation, write "Fund #199" in the memo line, and send it to:
Brockport Foundation, The College at Brockport,
350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, NY 14420.**